

2. (once amended) A hybrid polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the hybrid polypeptide comprises at least one complete allergenic protein.

3. (once amended) A hybrid polypeptide according to claim 2, wherein the hybrid polypeptide comprises at least two complete allergenic proteins.

4. (once amended) A hybrid polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the hybrid polypeptide comprises at least one fragment of an allergenic protein which fragment has a substantially reduced allergenic activity compared with the allergenic protein from which it is derived.

5. (once amended) A hybrid polypeptide according to claim 4, wherein the hybrid polypeptide comprises fragments of at least two different allergenic proteins all of which fragments have a substantially reduced allergenic activity compared with the respective allergenic proteins from which they are derived.

6. (once amended) A hybrid polypeptide according to claim 1, comprising at least three different allergenic proteins or fragments thereof.

7. (once amended) A polynucleotide encoding the hybrid polypeptide of claim 1.

9. (once amended) A cell transfected or transformed with the polynucleotide of claim 7.

13. (once amended) A method for preparing a hybrid polypeptide according to claim 1, comprising:

- a) providing a polynucleotide encoding the hybrid polypeptide;
- b) introducing said polynucleotide into a host cell;

- 43 concluded
- c) culturing the host cell obtained in b) under conditions such that the hybrid polypeptide is expressed; and
  - d) recovering the expressed hybrid polypeptide from the cultured host cell.

14. (once amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the polynucleotide encoding the hybrid polypeptide is obtained using PCR technology.

15. (once amended) A method for preparing a hybrid polypeptide according to claim 1, wherein the hybrid polypeptide is prepared by chemical synthesis.

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Please add the following new claims:

20. (new) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the hybrid polypeptide of claim 1, the polynucleotide of claim 7 or the cell of claim 9.

21. (new) A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 20, further comprising an adjuvant.

22. (new) A method for treating an allergic disorder comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 to a patient in need thereof.

23. (new) A method for inducing tolerance to a given allergen, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 to a patient in need thereof.

24. (new) A method for providing immunity to a given allergen, comprising administering the pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 to a patient in need thereof.

25. (new) A method for detecting antibodies against a given allergenic protein in a sample, comprising conducting *in vitro* antibody tests employing the hybrid